

Board of Directors - Charter

Background and Purpose

By Executive Order 2007-2, Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter established the Idaho 25x’25 Renewable Energy Council. This mandate was assigned to the Office of Energy Resources. The original 25x’25 effort was focused primarily upon using agricultural and forestry resources to meet 25% of the state’s energy needs by 2025. The Office of Energy Resources (OER) expanded this initial concept to include sustainable resources, energy efficiency and conservation, and energy development in accordance with the Idaho Energy Plan.

In response to this broader agenda, the Governor changed the name of this effort to the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance. The structure of the Alliance allows a wide variety of stakeholders to have representation and play a role in developing energy plans and strategies for Idaho’s energy future. The Alliance is Idaho’s primary mechanism to engage in seeking options for and enabling advanced energy production, energy efficiency, and energy business in the State of Idaho.

The purpose of the Alliance is to enable the development of a sound energy portfolio for Idaho that includes diverse energy resources and production methods, that provides the highest value to the citizens of Idaho, that ensures quality stewardship of environmental resources, and that functions as an effective, secure, and stable energy system. As such, the Board will:

1. Provide policy direction and planning aimed at increasing the State of Idaho’s production of renewable and sustainable energy.
2. Work to improve cooperation, collaboration and information sharing among public and private sector entities in the area of renewable and sustainable energy.
3. Seek out new and innovative means to increase production of energy in Idaho.

Structure of the Alliance

The Alliance is a three-tiered organization:

1. The top level is comprised of the Governor's Council, a group of cabinet members assigned responsibility in the Governor's Executive Order. The Council will review suggestions from the Board and interact directly with the Governor. The Council is led by the Administrator of the Office of Energy Resources.
2. Supporting the Council is a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from Idaho stakeholders and industry experts. The primary purpose of the Board of Directors is to provide the Council options and support regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency activities for the State of Idaho. This may comprise, but is not limited to options for targets, executable pathways to those targets, long and short term objectives, development opportunities, and other implementation approaches that are consistent with the Executive Order. The Board will also provide support with communication, outreach, general planning, and participation in State renewable and sustainable energy activities in order to ensure an optimally focused and successful program.

3. Supporting the Board of Directors are working groups (Task Forces), established through the advice of the Board and concurrence of the Council, and populated by select technical experts.

Specific Activities of the Board

1. Develop, review and validate project plans, technical concepts, business plans, communications strategies and other items for the Council.
2. Provide to the Council a “Program Plan” to include:
 - a. Validated information, on a sector-by-sector basis, regarding the state of renewable and sustainable energy deployment in Idaho;
 - b. Validated information regarding energy resource potential;
 - c. Options for functional pathways to deployment including conversion and transmission options, including those for electricity, fuels, heat, and other value-added energy products;
 - d. Assessment of technical, market, or regulatory challenges to address in deployment;
 - e. Assessment of environmental (air, water, land) impact;
 - f. Prioritization of near and mid-term development options;
 - g. Execution elements for near and mid-term.
3. Provide the Council a renewable energy / energy efficiency “Communication Strategy” that advances understanding of broad energy issues, the importance of renewable and/or sustainable energy / energy efficiency, and relevant State of Idaho / stakeholder initiatives;
4. Develop, charge, and manage Task Forces to develop and validate supporting elements of the Program Plan and Communications Strategy or to address other items deemed necessary;
5. Monitor and assess energy related efforts and opportunities in Idaho and report these to the Council through a regular reporting process;
6. Identify opportunities for energy related investment and program partners, identify potential initiatives, including demonstration projects, research and development projects, and industrial-scale projects.
7. Develop partnerships with university, industry, and regional stakeholders to advance the Idaho Program Plan;
8. Provide strategic vision that will optimize overall results of the program. This will be accomplished by:
 - a. Evaluating and prioritizing the efficacy of alternatives across the entire program;
 - b. Identifying synergistic opportunities and facilitating collaborative efforts and proposals between task force teams;
 - c. Providing oversight of task force team activities and progress while providing assistance when necessary;
 - d. Providing task force teams with guidance and boundaries that will ensure optimized results.

Membership

Board membership is will be appointed by the Governor with the assistance of the Director, Office of Energy Resources for a term specified by the Governor.

Board Management

- The Board is Chaired by an Executive Director, appointed by the Director, Office of Energy Resources. The function of the Executive Director is general management of Board functions (setting agendas, calling meetings, focused execution of meetings, etc) and to serve as the primary point of communication for the Board;
- The function of the Board is to provide validated options and supporting information to the Council. As such, reaching consensus on all options will not generally be necessary. When consensus is sought, a simple majority as determined by voice vote will comprise consensus opinion.
- The Board will meet as a group at least 4 times per year and may establish interim meetings and carry out business electronically in the interim;
- Board meetings will generally be held in Boise, but may be held in other locations as determined prudent (e.g. fact finding trips, etc);
- Meetings of the Board of Directors will generally be of 2-4 hour duration;
- Meetings may be supported by a professional facilitator and administrative personnel;
- Meetings will be structured with specific objectives and a set agenda. However, time will be managed to allow for open dialogue and creative development, as well as feedback from Task Force Teams on issues and needs;
- Selected Task Force leads will be invited to Board meeting to provide an update on their activities.

General Expectations of Board Members

- Active participation;
- Provision of resources as appropriate (your time and your organizations support – financial or professional);
- Board Members are expected to use their best judgment in assessing whether they may have a conflict of interest, disclose this to the Board, and recuse themselves from discussions or votes as appropriate. However, it is recognized that most if not all Board members have professional duties that intersect renewable energy interests.
- Engage in open and direct dialogue with Board Members.
- Foster participation with task force teams and other Alliance members in making decisions.
- Maintain member commitment by facilitating a common understanding of our future.
- Challenge our thinking by remaining open to all possibilities and seeking other perspectives.
- Hold each other accountable to our commitments.
- Surface disagreements while making decisions and fully support consistent implementation of decisions once made.
- If disagreements block progress, escalate the issue through established channels as required.
- Always consider first our commitment to the State of Idaho in seeking the greatest benefit for the State as a whole.
- Make decisions with consensus as a goal realizing that some decisions may need to be made using majority rule or escalated for resolution.
- When decisions are not made through consensus, issues and disagreements preventing it should be clearly communicated as part of the decision or recommendation.